Delhi Metro

*579. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether first phase of Delhi Metro is likely to be completed in time;

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the second phase is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The project is currently 8 months behind schedule. The first phase of the Delhi Metro Project is expected to be completed by September, 2005.

(c) The second phase of the Delhi Metro Rail Project has not been sanctioned so far. As such the likely date of completion for the second phase cannot be given at this stage.

Funds for Total Television Coverage

*580. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made funds available to her Ministry in the Tenth Plan to ensure total television coverage of the population;

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has pointed out that Rs. 4,000 crore would be needed to reach out to the remote North-East and the far-flung areas by the existing terrestrial network; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are considering to take to provide television coverage of rural and remote areas during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Although the 10th Plan proposals in respect of Doordarshan have not been finalized so far, it will be endeavour of the Government to provide adequate funds for expansion of coverage during this Plan.

A Sub-Group on 'Carriage and Technology' set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in connection with the finalisation of the 10th